

VOLUME 3

NUMBER 2

# MONTANA WILD LIFE

JULY

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE  
MONTANA STATE FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT



## Montana Musings

*I* WOULD like to sit by a camp fire  
And sleep on a bough-made bed,  
With the twittering insects about me  
And the shimmering leaves o'er head.

*I* would like to be wakened by song birds  
To watch their colorful flight,  
And make breakfast of bacon and coffee  
O'er coals that have kept through the night

*I* would like to stand by a trout stream  
Throw in a fly-baited hook,  
And catch a red-sided fighter  
Like those in the story book.

*I* would like to follow an impulse  
That would lead through the forest deep,  
And return to the campfire at evening  
For food and rest and sleep.

And when again it is morning  
And the breeze sounds just like a moan,  
I would hurry my bacon and coffee  
And take the glum trail toward home.



# MONTANA WILD LIFE

The Official Publication of The State Fish and Game Commission

VOL. III.

HELENA, MONTANA, JULY, 1930.

NO. 2.

## Sportsmen Oppose U. S. Control

ATTEMPTS of the Bureau of Biological Survey at Washington, D. C., to take over Lake Bowdoin or other Montana waters favored by migratory waterfowl without first consulting the State Fish and Game Commission, as representatives of the sportsmen of Montana, will be opposed by the Commission, according to action taken at the last regular meeting, July 9, at Somers. Reports prevalent for some time that such action was contemplated have brought a storm of protests from sportsmen throughout the state, particularly from the Malta vicinity. The matter was presented to the Commission by Game Warden Robert H. Hill, in reading a letter from John Tressler, prominent attorney and former Commission member, acting on behalf of the Phillips county sportsmen. The letter protested against the creation of a federal migratory refuge at Lake Bowdoin, of which there have been rumors for over a year. Mr. Tressler asserted that it is the sense of Malta sportsmen that the State Department and sportsmen should be advised if such action is imminent and allowed to express their views. The Bureau of Biological Survey has been empowered to create such refuges in the states through the passing of the Norbeck bill, and sportsmen of Montana helped with the passage of this bill, thinking they would be consulted in such matters. Mr. Hill advised he had written the Biological Survey some time ago, but has received no answer with a statement relative to the creation of a refuge at Lake Bowdoin.

The motion of Mr. Marlowe prevailed as follows: "I move that at this time the State Fish and Game Commission of Montana go on record as being opposed to the creation of any federal bird refuge within the state under the Norbeck bill, passed at the last session of Congress, without the Bureau of Biological Survey first taking up this matter with the Fish and Game Commission of Montana, and advising the Commission of its plans and first procuring the consent and approval of the Commission of Montana before creating said refuge." Seconded by Mr. Boyd.

The Secretary was instructed to send a copy of this order to the Bureau of Biological Survey, the Honorable Scott Leavitt and Mr. John Tressler.

At the meeting at Somers July 9 those present were: Thomas N. Marlowe, Chairman; G. T. Boyd and W. K. Moore, Commissioners; Secretary Robert H. Hill; Field Assistants Treece and Schofield; J. C. Frohlicher, Educational

Secretary; Ed. Boyes of the Libby Rod and Gun Club; and M. L. Matzick, Foreman of the Somers Fish Hatchery.

Mr. Boyes explained that it is the desire of his club to cooperate with the Commission in changing the location of the state fish hatchery at Libby. The hatchery is on a feeder stream, off the main road, has not enough water supply and is dangerously located should there be forest fires in that locality. There is a location avail-

intend the moving of the hatchery, securing the necessary easement or deed to the property to be used for the new hatchery location, and the work was ordered done as soon as possible. Ed. Boyes was asked to get bids on a new dwelling and report to Mr. Marlowe.

Mr. Boyes requested the closing of the West Fisher River and tributaries and the Silver Butte Fisher and tributaries, presenting a petition from the Libby club to this effect. This matter was tabled until like petitions are discussed by the Commission.

Mr. Boyes asked if there is not some way that bear can be protected in Lincoln county, inasmuch as these game animals are being indiscriminately killed. Mr. Hill explained that bear are classed as game animals and a hunting license is required before they can be hunted, but there is no closed season on them, and stockmen can trap or chase with dogs bear that are stock killers. Mr. Hill advised that similar situations are prevalent all over the state. The Commission instructed him to get an opinion from the Attorney General as to whether the Commission has the power to place further protection on bear.

The Commission adjourned until on board the boat Kee-O-Mee, on Flathead Lake, owned by Messrs. Sherman and Saling of Kalispell.

Mr. Hill advised that state departments have been requested in inventory work to make valuations of all the buildings at the hatcheries throughout the state. This work was delegated to the field assistants in their respective districts.

The Secretary read a petition from the Twin Bridges Rod and Gun Club and residents of the Upper Ruby and Centennial Valleys, asking the creation of a bird refuge in Madison and Beaverhead counties. Like petitions were read from the Forest Supervisor and residents at Sheridan, and from the Beaverhead Sportsmen's Association. He advised that a hearing had been held at Dillon, Montana, and from this hearing no protests had been recorded. On motion of Mr. Moore the Madison Bird Refuge was created. The refuge includes the following described territory: All of Townships 11 and 12 South, in Ranges 2, 3 and 4 West, and all of Township 12 South, Range 5 West, located in the Upper Ruby and Centennial Valleys, in Beaverhead and Madison counties, Montana, and the territory, known as the Madison Bird Refuge, shall be governed as a bird refuge of Montana, wherein it shall be unlaw-

### Montana Sets New Fish Mark

ANOTHER record has been established by the battery of spawn-taking stations operated by the State Fish and Game Commission. When the count is totaled for the 1930 spawning season, more than 50,000,000 eggs will have been taken by the Commission experts under artificial conditions and placed in the 15 state hatcheries. There they will develop until large enough to be transferred to rearing ponds or planted in the headwaters of mountain streams.

Under the leadership of Dr. I. H. Treece, the largest spawn-taking station in the world at the mouth of Flint Creek at Georgetown Lake, has thus far produced a total of 44,218,924 eggs, divided as follows: Native trout, 38,849,764; rainbow trout, 304,816; grayling, 5,064,344. This is the biggest take recorded from the Georgetown station.

At the new station at Lake Francis, near Valier, Superintendent Kenneth McDonald reports a total take of rainbow eggs for the season of 3,121,116.

At the Lake Ronan station Superintendent Eli Melton reports the total rainbow trout eggs for the 1930 season as 2,221,174.

These totals reach a grand summary of 49,561,214 game fish, with the final report to come from Georgetown. The trout and grayling will be planted in Montana streams to keep pace with inroads made by anglers from all parts of the state and nation.

able on Big Spring Creek on the main highway, to which the Neils Lumber Company has offered a lease on as much land as necessary. They have also offered whatever water right is needed for a permanent hatchery and a rearing pond on this creek. The hatchery buildings at the present location could be moved easily, and Mr. Boyes advised he has a prospective purchaser for the dwelling at the present location.

Dr. Treece was instructed to super-



ful to fire a gun for the purpose of killing or attempting to kill birds. The Secretary was instructed immediately to post and publish the proper notices of this order.

Mr. Hill advised that he had sent letters of inquiry to all deputy wardens and to rod and gun clubs in localities in which there are sage hens, asking whether they desired an early open season. Mr. Hill gave a brief summary of the contents of the letters.

Mr. Moore's motion carried as follows: "I move that there be an early open season on sage hens or sage grouse in the following counties in their entirety: Beaverhead, Big Horn, Blaine, Carbon, Chouteau, Fallon, Fergus, Garfield, Golden Valley, Hill, Meagher, Musselshell, Petroleum, Prairie, Rosebud, Stillwater, Treasure, Valley, Wheatland and Yellowstone; the open season to be August 3, 4 and 5, 1930, inclusive. During this special early open season it shall be unlawful for any person to have in his possession more than five of any such birds at any one time, or to take more than five of these birds per day."

Mr. Marlowe presented a petition from the Flathead Game Protective Association of Kalispell, asking that that portion of the Flathead River in Flathead county, between the mouth of Stillwater River on the north and the mouth of Ashley Creek on the south, be closed to fishing from July 1 to September 30, both dates inclusive, of each year, in addition to the regular closed season, inasmuch as this portion of the river is a natural rearing pond for small fishes, and the petition was approved.

Mr. Hill advised the Commission that J. F. Hendricks now has Chinese pheasants for distribution at the State Game Farm and will continue to have them during the season. Several birds have already been planted in the state, and the Department has many requests. Mr. Hill explained that he had written a letter to the deputies for their suggestions as to where the birds can best be planted throughout the state.

It was suggested that the Commissioners should make suggestions to the Secretary relative to good localities for plantings, and Chairman Marlowe suggested that the Department be conservative in the distribution of these birds where plantings are experimental.

Discussion followed as to suitable localities for planting these birds, and the following motion was made in this connection:

Mr. Marlowe: "I move that as soon as Mr. Hendricks is through with the work of liberating this year's crop of pheasants, that he be directed to make a trip around the state to ascertain as nearly as possible places for planting these birds, and that he visit as many sportsmen's clubs as possible on this trip."

Mr. Hill again presented requests from the Deer Lodge Anglers' Club for action by the Commission, all of which were tabled until a later meeting. One of the requests of the Deer Lodge sportsmen was for an open season in Powell county on Hungarian partridges and Chinese pheasants, and a closed season on upland game birds. Mr. Marlowe was instructed to write clubs and

deputy wardens throughout the state relative to their wishes in connection with closed or open seasons on upland game birds, Chinese pheasants and Hungarian partridges.

In connection with the request of the Deer Lodge club, asking for ice fishing in Cottonwood Creek, flowing through the town of Deer Lodge, and in Mud Lake, this matter was referred to Dr. Treece for investigation.

Mr. Hill read a request from Albert Wood of Victor, on whose land in Ravalli county a game preserve was created by the Commission, for the closing of all streams during the entire year, which run through the preserve, and it was approved, inasmuch as the warm springs thereon make ideal breeding waters for the fish.

Mr. Hill reported that he had made an investigation of the requests of Toole county and Liberty county sportsmen on conflicting seasons on Half Breed and Sage Creeks. He suggested that the streams retain their present status, i. e., Half Breed Creek in Liberty county is closed during the entire year, and Sage Creek is open during the regular open season, and the Commission approved.

Mr. Hill presented a petition from land owners in the vicinity of Little Box Elder Creek, in Hill county, asking that it be closed to fishing for three years, to avoid depletion of fish therein. He also read a letter from Deputy

Clark, making a request for the closing of this stream, and it was closed to fishing during the entire year until further order of the Commission.

Mr. Hill read a request from the Bozeman Rod and Gun Club, asking that the Gallatin River again be closed early this fall, inasmuch as the water will be low and a closed season will save undue depletion of fish. Chairman Marlowe was instructed to take up the matter of low waters and an early closed season on streams throughout the state with the sportsmen's clubs.

Another request from the Bozeman Rod and Gun Club was granted, wherein the club asked the Commission, on account of the drought existing along the entire Bridger range, to close the following streams in Gallatin county: Sixteen Mile Creek, Dry Creek, Pass Creek, Reese Creek, Springhill Creek, Bostwick Creek, Cottonwood Creek, Bridger and Rocky Creeks. Such action was recommended by Mr. Schofield.

Mr. Hill brought up the request of the Libby Rod and Gun Club for the closing of the West Fisher River and all its tributaries, and the Silver Butte Fisher River and all its tributaries, from its junction with East Fisher River to its source, due to the low water and the presence of numerous small fish. Deputy Dornington also recommended such action. The request was granted.

Mr. Hill read a request from the Anaconda Anglers' Club, made at a joint meeting of the Anaconda club with representatives of the Silver Bow, Granite and Powell counties' sportsmen's clubs, for a changed closed season on Georgetown Lake. They requested the lake be closed during April, May and June, and open the rest of the year to ice fishing. Dr. Treece endorsed this request, as this closed season will protect spring spawners. On motion of Mr. Marlowe the closed season on fishing in Georgetown Lake was changed to begin the first day of April of each year and end with the thirtieth day of June of each year, both dates inclusive, and fishing through the ice during the winter months was allowed.

At the request of Dr. Treece the following order was made:

Mr. Moore: "I move that Georgetown Lake be closed to fishing for a distance of 300 feet on either side of the mouth of Flint Creek, and extending out into the lake a distance of 600 feet from the shore, until further order of the Commission, said area to be marked by buoys or signs."

The Commission and Department extended to Dr. Treece congratulations for the good work he has done this year in spawn taking at Georgetown Lake, he having taken over 40,000,000 spawn.

The Anaconda club requested that a certain percentage of grayling spawn taken in Georgetown Lake be replanted in this lake, and on motion of Mr. Marlowe, in view of the wonderful showing in taking eggs from Georgetown Lake during the 1930 season, the Commission left the matter of stocking Georgetown Lake to the fish culture men in the Department's employ.

Mr. Hill read a letter from George L. Phillippe of Harlowton asking that Sixteen Mile Creek, in Meagher county, be closed to fishing the rest of this season, in view of the low water condi-

## Mister Muskrat On Dry Land Tour



SOME folks say that a nigger won't steal, and some other folks say that a muskrat won't leave the water. But here's a picture of Old Man Muskrat on a dry land parade. M. L. Matzick, foreman of the state fish hatchery at Somers, is shown making monkey business with the somewhat annoyed rat while he was caught in the dust of the trail moving from one lake to another, seeking greener pastures, more comfortable quarters or escaping household nagging.



tions, and it was granted. This stream in Gallatin county has been closed by the Commission.

Mr. Hill read a request from the Southeastern Montana Sportsmen's Association, at Laurel, for the opening of the Yellowstone River to set-line fishing to the Laurel Bridge. The Yellowstone River is now open to fishing for ling with set lines below the Huntley Bridge. On motion of Mr. Moore the law with reference to set-line fishing in the Yellowstone River was left as it is.

The Laurel club also brought to the attention of the Commission the pollution of the water in the Yellowstone River, presumably by the beet sugar factories, and asked the Commission to ascertain through investigation whether this pollution is detrimental to the fish in these waters. Mr. Marlowe was instructed to see if Dr. Howard of the State University at Missoula will make an investigation of the waters of the Yellowstone River after the beet sugar factories start operations and after Dr. Howard has completed his investigations for the Department of the Missoula River pollution.

The Laurel club also inquired of the investigations made by the Department in connection with the dams in the Yellowstone River and Tongue River over which fish ladders should be placed. This investigation, with one of the Crow Agency Dam, had been delegated to the Secretary for investigation, and he made a report as follows: The company owning the Tongue River Dam is making preparations for the installation of a fish ladder over their dam; the federal Indian officials who have under their jurisdiction the Crow Agency Dam are sending plans to Washington, D. C., for a ladder and will endeavor to secure an appropriation for building the ladder; and the government officials in charge of the Yellowstone Dam at Intake have declared themselves unwilling to erect a ladder over this dam, and the state engineer has explained that there is a question as to whether a ladder over this dam is necessary.

Mr. Hill read the opinion he had received from the Attorney General relative to the responsibility of the Fish and Game Department for actions of employes in driving Department-owned cars. Attorney General Foot advised that the state is not liable for the torts of its officers or employes, and the Fish and Game Commission would not be liable for injuries inflicted by an employe in driving a car unless the Commission had knowledge of the condition causing the injury and failed to remedy it, or unless they retained in their employ a person whom they know to be careless in driving a Department-owned vehicle. In view of this opinion, it was decided that it is fit that the Department insure its vehicles for fire and theft insurance.

Mr. Hill read correspondence from A. H. Bowman of the Big Horn County Rod and Gun Club, asking the cooperation of the Department in building rearing ponds in that district. An investigation of the sites in this locality had already been delegated to Mr. Schofield. Mr. Hill was authorized to advise the Big Horn county sportsmen that the matter has been taken care of, and Mr. Schofield will advise them when

he will look over these rearing pond sites this month.

Mr. Hill read letters from Deputy Holmes, wherein he requested that fish wheels or screens be placed in the ditches running into Rock Creek, to save hundreds of fish that are lost annually in these ditches. The Secretary was instructed to write Mr. Holmes that this condition exists in all parts of the state, but no screen or wheel has been perfected as yet.

Mr. Hill explained to the Commission that he is having some discussion with the Secretary of the Livestock Commission, relative to the transfer of moneys from the biological fund to the livestock fund. In December, 1925, there was transferred \$7,500 from the biological fund to the livestock fund, which, Mr. Hill contends, was for 1926 operations. The Livestock Commission contends this sum was for 1925 operations. Through this issue arises the question as to whether or not the biological fund has paid in full its share to the bounty fund of the Livestock Commission, or whether payments are one year in arrears.

The motion of Mr. Marlowe prevailed as follows: "I move, this matter having been explained to the Commission by its Secretary, that the Commission go on record as supporting the contention of the Secretary." Seconded by Mr. Boyd.

Mr. Hill gave a summary of a discussion with R. E. Bateman, leader of predatory animal control, relative to bear killing by trappers in Mr. Bateman's employ, and particularly the proposed operations of one Mr. Vogler, in the North Boulder territory. It is Mr. Hill's contention that Mr. Vogler in-

tends indiscriminately killing bear in that locality, and there is little stock there. Mr. Hill explained that he had advised Mr. Bateman that Mr. Vogler's bear-killing activities would be checked and watched, for if he is killing bear that are not stock killers he is violating the fish and game laws of Montana. Mr. Hill asked if he would have the support of the Commission in connection with this case if it is found that Mr. Vogler traps bear that should not be killed, and charges are brought against the trapper. The Commission voted to sustain the attitude of Game Warden Hill and voted that in the future, before any trappers launch such a campaign, they should make a thorough investigation to determine that these bears are killers of livestock and that they be satisfied that the bears are killers before taking same, as required by the laws of the state.

Mr. Hill presented to the Commission the five-year fish and game report from the northern district of the Forestry Service, in which they suggest the building of five new spawn-taking stations by the Department. Dr. Treece advised that such expenditure would be unnecessary, as the Georgetown spawning station is sufficient for the state.

A letter addressed to Mr. Moore from W. E. Ross at Fromberg was read. Mr. Ross suggested the building of a hatchery at the head of Bluewater Creek, as it is a natural and an ideal hatchery site. He also reported that there are many cranes along the Bluewater which are doing damage to the fish. The Secretary was instructed to write Mr. Ross that the Department is not interested in another hatchery site, but that

## Where the Galloping Gallatin Whirls



**T**HIS whirl of water that causes a fisherman's ambitions to rise, is a spot on the Gallatin River that Albert Schlechten, Bozeman photogra-

pher, admires. It's another reason why Montana is being visited by thousands of tourists this year.



Mr. Schofield will investigate with a view to locating a rearing pond there. The matter of eliminating cranes was referred to Deputy Holmes.

Mr. Hill read a request from the Beaverhead Sportsmen's Association for permission to seine in the Beaverhead River for suckers. Inasmuch as suckers are natural fish food, this request was denied.

A letter from O. W. Johnstone of the Dawson Rod and Gun Club, addressed to W. K. Moore, asked Mr. Moore when operations would be started at Fox Lake. Mr. Moore advised he would write Mr. Johnstone, and asked Mr. Hill to authorize State Engineer James to make a survey of the Fox Lake proposition, to determine where the dam should be built. Mr. Howell of Lambert will assist Mr. James. Mr. Johnstone asked what had been done relative to building a fish ladder over the dam at Intake, and the Secretary was instructed to write him his findings.

The request of the Broadwater Rod and Gun Club for ice fishing for whitefish in the Missouri River was tabled.

M. L. Matzick, foreman of the Somers hatchery, advised that the roof of the dwelling at the hatchery should be re-

placed and authority was given to proceed.

Mr. Matzick also advised that he would like to have the main pipe line from the spring to the hatchery lengthened 400 or 500 feet, inasmuch as the present pipe line is too short for the pressure on the pipe. Mr. Matzick was authorized to purchase whatever pipe is necessary, not to exceed 500 feet.

Mr. Matzick advised that in order to secure cold enough water for rearing the fish at his hatchery, it will be necessary to build rearing ponds or extend the pipe line in the lake about 1,700 feet. This matter was tabled.

The Commission was advised that the fish ladder over the dam at Big Fork on the Swan River should be replaced or repaired, in view of the fact that it is not suitable for water depth extremities. The dam there is also being raised five feet. The State Game Warden was instructed to see that an appropriate fish ladder is put in.

Mr. Schofield asked what the Commission has in mind relative to the old hatchery at Emigrant. His idea is, if possible, to abandon the old hatchery and concentrate all efforts at the recently purchased Anderson hatchery. He advised that there is a man in his

locality now who is a house mover and he would like authorization to secure prices from him for moving the buildings from the old hatchery to the Anderson place. Mr. Schofield was authorized to secure estimates to move them to the Anderson grounds.

Mr. Schofield recommended that the Commission give him permission to hire a man to test Ackley Lake to see whether the bass and crappies planted therein are successful, and the test was approved.

Dr. Treece presented to the Commission a letter from W. T. Thompson, superintendent of the federal hatchery at Bozeman, wherein Mr. Thompson stated that eggs shipped from the Anaconda hatchery to the federal hatchery were received in poor condition. Mr. Marlowe was instructed to file a claim, and suit if necessary, against the express company for this loss.

Dr. Treece advised that he shipped to S. S. Drew, at Troy, 3,500,000 native eggs, with the agreement that Mr. Drew should send the Department 2,000,000 rainbow eggs in exchange. Mr. Drew wrote Dr. Treece that he had been unable to dispose of all the native eggs, and would like to exchange with the Department only the number of rainbow eggs in agreement with the percentage of native eggs he had been able to dispose of. Dr. Treece was instructed to make whatever agreement with Mr. Drew relative to this exchange of eggs he thinks is the most advantageous to the Department.

Dr. Treece advised that James Finlen and Mr. Nichols wish to build a private pond on property owned by them on a tributary to Rock Creek, Missoula county, and Warden Hill and Dr. Treece were instructed to investigate their request and act for the Commission.

On motion of Mr. Boyd the Giant Spring of the Missouri River at Great Falls, Cascade county, was closed to fishing at all times.

Mr. Marlowe advised that Kicking Horse Reservoir, in Lake county, Montana, has just been stocked with small-mouth bass, and the reservoir was closed to all fishing until further order of the Commission.

Mr. Marlowe read a letter from the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners, advising of the 24th annual meeting of that association to be held at Toronto, Canada. Mr. Marlowe advised that he thought the Montana Fish and Game Commission should be associated with this organization. The annual dues of \$25 were ordered paid.

On motion of Mr. Marlowe, when the Western Association of State Fish and Game Commissioners meets, Secretary Hill was authorized and directed to attend the meeting.

The Commission discussed the work of Dr. Crawford for the summer months. He has been studying drying non-game fish and utilizing them for fish food. He also has a blueprint of the machine necessary in this work. Dr. Crawford was instructed to fix up a plant for taking tuckers to be used for fish food for next year's use.

Mr. Marlowe recommended the work Paul J. Fair has been doing in taking moving pictures of wild life in Montana and read a report relative to the

## Hook the Big Fish, Is His Motto



A. C. Baumgartner of Great Falls and One of His Prizes

**T**HE large fish should be caught and sportsmen of Montana should angle for them," declares A. C. Baumgartner, leading license dealer of the state, whose center of activity is at Great Falls. Here's his argument:

"My principal reason for inaugurating a fishing contest in connection with our business is to encourage the catching of the larger fish, thus protecting the smaller fry. The amount of fry consumed by the large fish during a 24-hour period can hardly be realized by the average layman. Trout weighing from 2 to 3 pounds will encompass two or three 2½-inch minnows in as many

seconds, and will repeat the performance every second day. From this we can readily imagine what havoc a large fish will raise among his kind, for all fish are cannibals. Therefore we ought to urge that fishermen ply our larger streams such as the Missouri, Sun and Smith Rivers, and use larger lures and hooks. I could name a number of our fishermen who have decided to do all their fishing in the streams mentioned. One 7- or 8-pound trout will consume as many young fry as 8 or 10 fishermen will catch during the same length of time."



work he has done and plans on doing. Mr. Marlowe explained that although Mr. Fair was hired for only six months, it is almost imperative that he stay at least a year to finish his work. He was employed for a year from the period of beginning, May 1, 1930, with the understanding that when he is at home his expenses cease and the Department will not have to pay for them.

Mr. Marlowe read a letter from A. Evans Kephart of Pennsylvania, who has property in the Upper Madison country, wherein Mr. Kephart made suggestions relative to closing certain streams in that part of the country. Mr. Marlowe and Mr. Hill were ordered to investigate.

Mr. Marlowe asked John C. Frohlicher for what matters he might have. He reported he had sent out 17 letters to rod and gun clubs, asking if they were interested in the continuance of the state predatory animal contest. Six had replied in the affirmative; the remainder answered negatively or not at all, hence the predatory animal contest was ordered discontinued for this year.

Mr. Frohlicher advised that he had heard criticisms of his work and tendered his resignation as Educational Secretary to the chairman of the Commission. The matter was tabled until the next meeting of the Commission.

Secretary Hill was instructed to write the Lewistown Rod and Gun Club and thank them for their fine cooperative work in the help they gave the Department in building the rearing ponds at the Lewistown hatchery.

It was decided to have the next meeting of the Commission at Lewistown, August 2.

## Trapping Mink

Editor WILD LIFE:

Under the present laws governing mink trapping in this state there appears to be a useless destruction of these animals in the spring when the skins are practically of no value.

From our own observation and that of many mink trappers these animals commence arriving from the states west and south of us in February for the mating season, having their young (6 to 7) in Montana and again a large proportion of them leaving us in November of each year to winter in a warmer climate.

Under our present laws, trappers are allowed to trap these animals from December 1 to April 15, which results in killing hundreds of female mink carrying their young, or the young having been born, in the destruction of thousands of them from starvation. Fur farmers being allowed to catch mink in the spring also starves hundreds of these kittens when the mother is caught.

When the mink are coming into Montana in the spring the skins are already "singed" and brown and are of no value and it is simply wanton destruction to trap them.

We would suggest opening the season on these animals not later than November 10 when the skins are the best color and when we would derive

some benefit from the thousands of mink that have been raised here and that are then starting their yearly emigration to other states to be caught by trappers in those states. Close the trapping season in Montana absolutely on February 1 so as to give the mink that come to us some protection.

The value of the mink skins sold in Montana each season probably is over \$50,000.

With proper protection this yearly catch could be continued indefinitely.

G. O. HALLOWELL,  
Northern Fur Company,  
Missoula, Mont.

## YEAH?

With the fishing season on and every one talking "hard times," it reminds us of the so-called Roosevelt panic of 1907. We were living on the northern border, where a great deal of commercial fishing was done, fish having a recognized value and as currency was scarce, many used fish as a medium of exchange.

One day a fisherman came in with a large northern pike, or as they were called up there, a jackfish, and threw it down on a saloon bar to pay for a drink and the bartender reached under the bar and threw out a couple of bullheads for change. Believe it or not.

## A NATURAL INFERENCE

Two small boys were out hunting in the woods and one of them stopped and picked up a chestnut burr.

"Tommy!" he called excitedly, "Come here! I've found a porcupine egg!"

## The Bite of the Fishbug

Them weeds in the corn ain't so awful big yit,

So they can jist wait til' I go out an' git

This yearnin' an' pinin' that's in my bones out;

It hurts me as bad as rheumatics er gout.

It's them fishbugs a-bitin', I know by the sting.

They always git on you along in the spring,

Then the first thing you know you jist got to go fishin';

No use mopin' 'round home a-pinin' an' wishin'.

When a fishbug commences a-bitin', you see,

Why it hurts jist as bad as a skeeter, er flea.

The doctor can't cure the darn thing with his pill,

An' a fishin' trip's all 'at I know of that will.

Then, when you git back, if they're still bitin' you

They's only one thing in the world you can do:

Go back to the crick an' jist fish til' they quit;

Let the weeds go to blazes; they's lots o' time yit.

## Hey, Fellers! Can Yah Smell the Java an' Fixin's?



MONTANA extends her hospitable arms to the vacationist and here's a scene that might be duplicated in thousands of nooks and crannies of the Treasure State while the fly fish-

ing season is at its height. This picture was taken by Kenneth D. Swan of the U. S. Forest Service in the country north of McLeod Peak in Montana.



# Montana Fish and

G. T. BOYD, Great Falls...*Commissioner*

JOS. L. KELLY, Anaconda...*Commissioner*



# Game Commission

W. K. MOORE, Billings...*Commissioner*

E. A. WILSON, Livingston...*Commissioner*

THOMAS N. MARLOWE, Missoula, *Chairman*

ROBERT H. HILL, Helena, *State Fish and Game Warden, Secretary*

## MONTANA WILD LIFE

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NO. 2.

### VALUE OF MONTANA'S FISH AND GAME

**M**R. SPORTSMAN, did you ever sit down by yourself and attempt to figure out the value of Montana's fish and game in dollars and cents? Try it. The result will be refreshing. The resident pays a \$2 annual fishing and hunting fee. If that farmer is a resident how many crop-damaging bugs would the birds on his farm have to exterminate to reimburse him? Is there \$2 worth of meat in a creel of the finest trout ever pulled from an American stream? Is there \$2 worth of actual food in a buck deer or an elk? Then what's the sport of the chase worth, the thrill, the opportunity to go afield with your dog and gun, breathe in \$2 worth of God's sunshine and ozone secure in the knowledge that the \$2 paid for a license insures you with all your sport? Civilization is making serious inroads. The drain on fish and game must be met by united sportsmen of the Treasure State. The increased license fee is sorely needed.

Here's an article from the Department of Conservation and Development of North Carolina that may prove interesting in view of the fact that the \$3 fee is under consideration:

"Many persons do not realize that wild life has any considerable economic value beyond that of providing recreation for those who participate in hunting and fishing, but recent estimates by Colonel J. W. Harrelson, Director of the Department of Conservation and Development, show that the opportunity to increase the wealth of the state through proper development of these and other natural resources has been neglected.

"Proper protection for game, fish and forests, with the wise utilization of these resources in the future, according to Colonel Harrelson, would add wealth totaling \$130,000,000 to the annual income of the state. The potential new income is divided as follows: game, \$5,000,000; fur-bearing animals, \$10,000,000; commercial fish, \$20,000,000; and wood products, \$80,000,000. Of the total, it is believed that between 80 and 90 per cent would go to rural people and inhabitants of small towns.

"The flesh of birds and animals taken in North Carolina each year is estimated to have a value of more than \$2,000,000, a considerable saving in the meat bill of the state. The first census of game bagged in the state showed around 4,000,000 pieces of game taken by hunters. This count was made the year after the new state-wide game law went into effect.

### "GEE, I WISH I WAS HIM!"

**A**N elderly gentleman, dressed in the latest fashion, stepped briskly from a limousine, gave brief instructions to his chauffeur and turned toward the entrance of the city's biggest business concern. He almost collided with a small boy who stood in open-eyed admiration in front of the building, his gaze fixed on the gentleman.

Across the rugged urchin's shoulder there rested an old bent bamboo fishing pole; one dirty hand held a can containing a mass of wiggling angling worms. The two of them, the gentleman and the boy, regarded each other intently for a second or two. The former then turned into the big building while the latter, a small frown puckering his sun-browned brow, wended his way toward the distant brook.

An hour later the small boy, perched on the end of a log overlooking a babbling stream, baited his pin hook with a squirming worm and cast it upon the waters of the little stream. His eyes held a look of longing and his thoughts seemed not on the taking of trout. Presently he heaved a great sigh and said, "Gee, I wisht I was him."

Seated in his office, in the tall skyscraper back in the city, the big business man paused in the middle of a letter he was dictating to his stenographer. Into his eyes crept a faraway look and his stern face softened, and as memories from out the long ago came flocking to him, an almost boyish look rested there as he murmured, "Gee, I wish I was him."

The naked truth is unclad, but flattery always has something up its sleeve.

### THE DAMAGE OF WORDS

**T**HE story is told of a peasant with a troubled conscience who had come to a monk for advice. The peasant had circulated slander about a friend—only to find out later that it wasn't true. The monk was old and wise. "If you want to make peace with your conscience," he said, "you must fill a bag with chicken down, go to every doorway in the village, and drop in each of them one fluffy feather."

The peasant did as he was told. Then he came back to the monk and announced that he had done penance for his folly. "Not yet!" said the monk sternly. "Take up your bag, go the rounds again, and gather up every feather that you have dropped!"

"But the wind must have blown them all away."

"Yes, my son," replied the monk. "And so it is with gossip. Words are easily dropped, but no matter how hard you try, you can never get them back again."

He is a wise under dog who realizes that sympathy will end when he gets up.

### A REMARKABLE COINCIDENCE

**A** MALE pintail duck, banded at the Bear River Marshes, Utah, on September 10, 1929, and a female, banded on the same day at Dawson, North Dakota, 500 miles to the northeast, were both killed on the same day by the same man at the same place—Toluca, Mexico. Of the thousands of valuable and interesting recoveries of banded birds that have been reported, this is one of the most remarkable. Toluca, where the pintails were killed, is near Mexico City, about 1,700 to 2,000 miles from the places where they were banded.



## ADVICE IN A CARTRIDGE BOX

**R**ECENTLY the cartridge boxes of one of the large cartridge companies have contained inserts bearing on the conservation of game. One of these is quoted below:

"Sportsmen, do not shoot your fellow sportsmen's share of the game—leave some for him who comes after you.

"The true sportsman shoots only for himself in the field. A license is issued to you as an individual and it does not give you the right to shoot for others of the party.

"The limit prescribed by law does not mean that you should always avail yourself of that limit. Remember that there must always be enough game left to replace the numbers killed each year. We, as true sportsmen, must assist nature by always leaving a strong and plentiful supply of breeding stock."

As this ammunition is actually used by the hunter, this method of conveying a message that it is important for him to think not only of killing but of the conservation of game for future supply, will undoubtedly add to the game consciousness of the shooting public.

The man who refuses to unbend may suffer from either dig-nity or boils.

## AUTOS MAKE BIRDS USE STRING IN NESTS

**T**HE automobile and tractor are causing nature to revise her scheme and adopt modern methods. The horsepower under the hood is making birds use string now instead of horsehair in building their nests. The crowding out of the horse by motor vehicles has created a scarcity of horsehair, a necessary material in the building of many birds' nests. Birds that weave their nests and formerly tied the structure together with horsehair are now resorting to string in the absence of the old standby.

This is but a material illustration of the many changes that are being forced in nature by modernity. Some of these changes threaten the extinction of wild life in the United States. To offset the changing conditions, science, sportsmen, and others have joined hands to conserve the remaining wild life and to devise ways to assist nature to restore it to its former abundance. Several fundamentals have been arrived at as a basis. The principal ones are the necessity of providing sufficient and year-around natural food supplies for the various species; winter feeding in snow areas; sufficient cover for species to rest, nest and hide from their natural enemies; the control of their enemies; and the prevention and cure of epidemic diseases.

## KILL OFF THE TRAMP CATS

**T**HE "slaughter of innocents" has been resumed again and from now until mid-summer at least a million fledgling birds, the majority of them important to the protection of farm crops against insect pests, will be destroyed by cats. As a humane measure and to protect the feathered songsters, some Montana communities this year are conducting campaigns to rid their towns of the homeless feline marauder and disease carrier. Sportsmen's clubs also are urged to exterminate as the greatest menace to birds and small game the tramp cats in the fields and woodlands. A cat destroyed, declare bird life experts, means an average of 100 birds saved during the year.

## BLACK SALMON—POOR FISH

**T**HE "black" or "slink" salmon of the Miramichi, which furnishes the earliest sport for impatient anglers in New Brunswick, is the original "poor fish" of song and story. To begin with, he is sadly lacking in judgment, or he would not be found where and when he is hooked by these earliest anglers. He should be out at sea with salmon of normal intelligence and energy; but instead, having been too slow to get away from the spawning beds and down stream again before freeze-up, he has passed the winter in fresh water—and here he is, thin and dull and exactly where the early fishermen expect to find him. Poor fish!—poor in the water, poor on the hook, poorest on the hot platter.

## BABY WOOD DUCK BOWS TO SCIENCE

**T**HE ingenuity of man seems to be winning over the secretive instincts of nature, according to the findings of Carlos Avery, president of the American Game Protective Association. Science has at last solved the baffling problem of "How to make the baby wood duck eat in captivity?" Many heads were scratched over this.

With the rapid depletion of the wood duck tribe, a native of the United States and a year 'round resident of nearly every state, federal protection was given the specie. He is coming back slowly, and man has added his ingenuity to help him. Wood duck eggs were secured in many instances and hatched under foster mothers or in electric incubators to increase his number. The baby ducks were healthy and strong, but foster mothers could not teach them to eat, so the little fellows actually starved to death in the midst of plenty. Forceful feeding was resorted to in some cases but failed.

Scientists, game breeders, college professors and others schemed and tried innumerable methods to entice the little wild babies to eat but to no avail—until one finally hit upon the simplest idea and it worked like a charm. He approximated natural conditions for the wood duck.

Knowing that baby ducks usually pick up food in water and mud, the experimenter cut a piece of sod about a foot square and two inches thick. He hollowed out a small basin in it, soaked the entire sod, and placed it in the coop. In the small basin he put an inch depth of water and sprinkled the same food that the baby wood ducks had refused under all other conditions. The little fellows immediately "puddled" in the miniature basin and started picking up the food in the water. The demands of instinct had been met.

It's a wise father who knows where the family automobile is.

## HOW TO CURE "THE IVY"

**N**OW that the vacation season is in full swing millions of people are going into the woods and fields. Many of these are subject to the infection of poison ivy or sumac. If you believe you have "the ivy," the American Game Protective Association suggests that you use a curative at once. Washing with strong laundry soap is reported as being an excellent preventive. Redness, itching or blisters on the skin will evidence that the infection has taken hold. One good cure is to paint the affected parts with a tincture of iron. A solution of potassium permanganate is useful and can be used in the same way. These preparations can be gotten in any drug store.

Immediately after the infection appears it is a good thing to wash the face and hands with a 5 per cent solution of ferric chloride in a half and half mixture of alcohol and water or glycerine and water. Care must be taken not to get this preparation into the eyes. A strong solution of ferrous sulphate in water may be used in the same way.

## ALBINO PHEASANTS

**R**EPORTS have been received from the southeastern part of Pennsylvania that quite a few almost pure white ring-necked pheasants are being observed. At the beginning of Pennsylvania's deer problem a great many cases of albinism were reported. With the pheasants in southeastern Pennsylvania, particularly, a similar problem is fast becoming evident. Sexes are unbalanced and the birds need thinning out somewhat. Consistent killing of the big healthy cock birds each year is beginning to tell upon the quality of the stock and it has been thought for some time that eventually both males and females will have to be killed during the hunting season.

## USE BIG HOOKS—SAVE SMALL FISH

**I**F ANGLERS would make a practice of using large-sized fish hooks, thousands of small fish would be saved, the American Game Protective Association's observers report. It is illegal to take under-sized fish. Besides, the majority of fishermen do not want small fish. They are put back into the water after they are taken from the hook. Many of them die from injuries. Those fishing with bait should use a large-sized hook so the smaller fish can not swallow or impale themselves upon it. It is the small hook that does the damage. Fly fishermen who use small hooks are not usually troubled with small fish, for they seldom strike.



# Elk Expert For More Hunting



W. M. Rush

**A**FTER an exhaustive investigation of the elk situation in the Sun River district, William M. Rush, expert employed by the State Fish and Game Commission, the Forestry Service, the National Parks Service and the Biological Survey, has reached the conclusion that: "It is clearly evident that this herd is too large for the winter range available for them and that the only practicable method for utilizing the increase is through hunting." Mr. Rush, in his report to the various state and government agencies by which he has been employed to study the elk situation in Montana, asserts that this herd has grown from 1,000 elk in 1913 to 5,000 in 1930, with continued hunting, and favors scattering them among the mountains where they will not be a menace, rather than permitting them to be forced off grazed-over land on the forest reserves during the winter months, to pastures and hay lands.

Mr. Rush has devoted years to the study of the problems which he now has in hand and in a recent communication made this significant statement: "Perhaps it may seem strange to some that considerable stress is placed upon the control of the size of elk herds of Montana. There has been considerable trouble with these herds for the last 20 years because of the rapidity with which they increase and become a pest or easy prey for the hunter. Elk hunting in Montana practically does not exist—elk shooting is very common. A plant is made in some region, usually on a national forest. The plant is protected until the numbers are so great that their winter pasture is insufficient and the animals leave the mountains and take their abode on privately owned lands of the ranchers. The rancher has absolutely no other recourse than that of having the protection from hunting removed. When shooting is allowed slaughter results. The recreational value of a trip into the mountains for game practically does not exist in these days in connection with our elk. Hardly 2 per cent of 1,506 elk killed out of the northern Yellowstone herd in 1928 were killed outside of an area of 10 square miles and at least 33½ per cent were killed in an area of two square miles. Ninety-five per cent of the men securing elk came to the killing grounds in automobiles, some from as far as 100 miles and returning with an elk the same day."

The report of Mr. Rush on the Sun River elk situation, on which he was

accompanied by Matt Scallon, follows:

We covered Home Gulch, Sun River Canyon, vicinity of Two Sharks, Beachmark, Wood, Ford, Willow, and Cut Rock Creeks, and a part of the range outside the Lewis and Clark Forest, where some of the elk wintered. A map of the Lewis and Clark Forest is attached.

The Lewis and Clark Forest is that territory east of the Continental Divide south of Glacier Park to the Helena Forest. The eastern boundary of the forest rises abruptly from the plains to high mountains, the timbered areas on the east being small irregular bodies of lodgepole, limber pine, Douglas fir and sub-alpine fir, burned by forest fires so often that the soil is of poor quality. However, the soil on the non-timbered grass land is of very good quality and supports an excellent stand of forage plants.

The Sun River Game Preserve is nearly all timbered, the soil is good and supports a good stand of weeds and timber grasses. As a whole it is a typical summer range but is at an altitude where snow depths are too great for grazing animals in the winter. Altitude at the forest boundary on Sun River is 4,400 feet, and averages 8,700 on the Continental Divide.

The Spotted Bear Game Preserve adjoins the Sun River Preserve on the west and is on the Flathead Forest. But very little of this area is winter range.

East of the Lewis and Clark Forest for 10 to 15 miles practically all of the land is foothill and plains pasture. Some few areas are cultivated to hay and grain.

## General History of Sun River Elk Herd (Data taken from Forest Service)

Prior to 1910 elk were quite scarce in this region and the Sun River Game Preserve was created in 1913 to protect these animals. The counted number in 1913 was 965 elk and the total for the forest estimated at 1,000 head. The estimated number in 1910 was 300 head. The accuracy of this 1910 estimate is questioned by the Forest Service. Counts and estimates made since 1913 are as follows:

1914	1,400	
1915	1,700	
1916	1,479	estimate 2,000
1917	1,708	
1922		estimate 3,470
1923	3,525	
1925	2,495	estimate 3,953
1928	3,180	estimate 4,211
1929	2,855	estimate 4,211

The estimate for 1930 is 5,170 head.

These counts and estimates show an average net increase of about 10 per cent and if continued until 1938 the herd will number nearly 11,000 head.

The Forest Service records show the following numbers taken by hunters:

1913	15	1926	209
1914	55	1927	324
1915	93	1928	184
1917	200	1929	309
1918	21		
1922	150	Total	3,083
1923	187	Average	
1924	170	(per year)	220
1925	637		

Much controversy has resulted from the growth of this elk herd between the stockmen and sportsmen's clubs. Originally, nearly all of the Lewis and Clark Forest was grazed by domestic stock. Upon the establishment of the Sun River Game Preserve in 1913, all permits for stock on this area were cancelled. Reductions since then have been as follows: For the North Fork of Sun River from 25,598 animal months in 1913 to 9,165 animal months in 1929. For the entire Lewis and Clark Forest, from 57,373 animal months in 1913 to 29,510 animal months in 1929. These reductions have been made from year to year as the elk herd has increased.

The Forest Supervisor of the Lewis and Clark Forest in 1916 recommended a limitation of this herd to 2,000 head.

Alva Simpson, a Forest Supervisor from Colorado, who was detailed for a number of years on big game problems, made an inspection of the Sun River herd in 1916 and recommended a limitation of 2,000 head. Other supervisors since then have recommended a check on the growth of the herd.

As the herd has increased it has expanded more and more to the settled country on the east, as severe winters forced the animals to lower altitudes for forage. In 1925 some few animals ranged as far east as the city of Choteau. In 1930 some 2,000 to 3,000 elk were outside the mountains on stock ranches where they did considerable damage to the stockmen's range and fences. Some were as far out as Augusta, Montana.

## Additional Winter Range

No additional winter range remains on the North Fork of Sun River. The areas designated on the map as Home Gulch, Willow Creek, Ford Creek and Wood Creek are at present grazed by cattle, the removal of which would furnish some additional forage for the elk during severe winters. Not all of these areas are winter range and it is not known just how many elk these areas would support in a severe winter.

## Weather Conditions Winter of 1929-30

Residents in the locality of Sun River report that about 28 inches of snow fell in December, was followed by a thaw, then very cold weather during the latter part of December and the entire month of January. Such weather conditions form a heavy crust on the snow and cause elk to migrate to lower altitudes where food is more easily secured. Similar conditions occur on an average of once in nine or ten years.

## Condition of Forage

I found the range that was used by the elk last winter in excellent condi-



tion. No signs of overgrazing were noted, with the exception of some very small areas which were nearly 100 per cent dandelion and tansy. These are negligible. The Home Gulch area was grazed somewhat closer than any of the others, but the soil here is good and the forage is not permanently injured. But very little of last year's crop of forage is left. Browsing of aspen, brush and conifers is negligible.

#### Condition of Elk

The elk show by their physical condition that they have endured a severe winter. The calves in particular are in poor shape.

Sixty-six dead elk were found on the range by Matt Scallon, Forest Ranger Martin and others. About half of these were calves and the remainder old cows, some younger cows and a few old bulls. I had no opportunity to examine any of the elk for evidence of disease.

In the bunches seen there was a very small percentage of calves (2 to 3 per cent) and it seems probable that a much larger number of animals died than was found.

Forest Ranger Martin and Matt Scallon stated that of the 66 head of dead elk which they found, 10 or 11 had been wounded by gunshot.

#### Management

It is clearly evident that this elk herd is too large for the winter range available for them and that the only practicable method for utilizing the increase is through hunting.

In my opinion the purchase of pasture lands outside the Lewis and Clark Forest would not solve the problem, but rather complicate it by bringing the elk out of the mountains in close proximity to ranches and domestic stock, thus developing the pot shooting method of elk hunting and introducing diseases in the herd.

The range now used in the Lewis and Clark Forest by domestic stock has been so used by the present permittees for a long term of years and the proper use of their ranches is dependent on this summer range.

The Forest Service policy, which I understand was adopted last year, is to make no more reductions in the preferences of the permittees until a definite policy in regard to the size of the elk herd which is to be maintained in this region and satisfactory methods agreed upon for the control of the size of the herd, is adopted by the various agencies concerned with the welfare of wild life. This seems to be fair to both the conservationists and livestock interests.

#### Other Wild Life in This Region

The Forest Service estimate of large wild animals in this forest is: Deer (both mule and Virginia), 900; elk, 5,170; moose, 42; mountain sheep, 600; mountain goats, 550; black bear, 188; grizzly bear, 63. Open seasons for hunting exist for the deer, elk, and bear, except, of course, on the game preserves.

The simple fact that this herd has grown from 1,000 elk in 1913 to 5,000 elk in 1930 (with continued hunting) and that the Forest Service has made ample and consistent reductions in the livestock grazed on that area to provide range for this constantly increas-

ing herd, should, it seems to me, call for commendation from conservationists, rather than condemnation.

#### Conclusions

1. The winter of 1929-30 was unusually severe.

2. The Sun River elk herd showed in May, 1930, unmistakable signs of a hard winter, especially old cows and calves.

3. Known losses total 66 head, 10 or 11 of which had been wounded by gunshot.

4. Estimated losses, 198 head—three times the known loss. Based on personal experience in finding dead animals in rough country without intensive search for them.

5. Some damage was done to privately owned forage and fences by 2,000 to 3,000 elk which drifted outside the boundaries of the Lewis and Clark Forest.

6. No evidence of disease was found in the herd.

7. Forage in excellent condition; due partly to early season.

8. No overgrazing indicators, such as heavy growths of tansy and dandelion, or excessive browsing, was observed.

9. The elimination of all livestock from this forest will afford but a partial and temporary relief.

#### Recommendations

I recommend that a committee be formed to consist of two representatives of each of the following agencies (one representative to be an administration officer of his organization, the other to be a field officer).

Great Falls chapter of the Izaak Walton League.

State Game Department.

U. S. Biological Survey.

Local Livestock Interests.

U. S. Forest Service.

This committee to meet some time this summer and hold a public hearing, after which they meet as a committee and formulate definite plans for the management of this elk herd and make to their respective organizations recommendations for the carrying out of such plans.

## Imported Game Birds Now Free of Duty

AT LEAST one item in the new tariff law will be universally popular. It will meet with favor of the state game commissioners of the country who have been buying and importing Hungarian partridge or Mexican bob-white quail, as it will save them substantial sums of money that they can use to purchase more birds or apply to some other constructive purpose, according to Carlos Avery, president of the American Game Protective Association.

Under the previous law the tariff on imported game birds was 50 cents each, or 20 per cent ad valorem if valued at over \$5 each. The new law places game birds imported for stocking purposes on the free list.

Assuming that their importations con-

tinue on the same scale as in 1929, New York will save \$3,000 a year on Hungarian partridge; Maryland, Georgia, Texas, Virginia, Kentucky, Oklahoma and Pennsylvania, all of which import substantial numbers of quail, will have from \$1,500 to \$7,500 each to use for more quail or some other purpose. Minnesota, South Dakota, Ohio and Pennsylvania will save from \$1,000 to \$2,500 each on Hungarian partridge. Other states which purchase smaller numbers will save in proportion.

Importations of game birds for stocking is for public benefit and not for any private gain and the tax or license funds of the department are used to pay for them.

This change in the tariff law was brought about through the efforts of the National Committee on Wild Life Legislation, consisting of all the major conservation organizations of the country and of which the American Game Protective Association is a member.

## A Hunter's Dream

Babbling brooks and whirring wings,

Winter skies and joy it brings,  
Singing softly as we go,

Moving quietly to and fro,

As the dawn steals gently on

Brings the buck, the doe and fawn—

Then a snowbird, here and there,

Adding music to the air.

My happy hunter, little Mick,

Onward goes, wary, quick.

Now she stops, with head swung high

Looks for us. My pard and I

To our bag, add another

Watching keenly, for the other.

Here we stop, to eat our lunch

When my pard, has a hunch,

Looking yonder through the pine,

He raised his gun, just in line

To a partridge, plump and round.

It took a tumble, to the ground.

For today we had our fun

With a bird-dog and a gun,

Evening skies, of glowing ember

With cool breezes of November,

Now and then, a dog would bark

As the skies, were growing dark.

Homeward bound, with jumps and hops

While our dog, she licks her chops

And at last, we eat and rest

Pet the dog that we love best.

In the hearth the embers gleam,

Just another HUNTER'S DREAM.

#### MOOSE GAIN IN PARK

Yellowstone National Park is said to contain about 700 moose and they are believed to be increasing in numbers. The beaver, which has played an important part in the animal life of the west, also is increasing, according to estimates.

#### MANY BIRDS IN PARK

There are said to be more than 200 species of birds in Yellowstone National Park. These include geese, ducks, gulls, eagles, hawks, owls, night hawks, ravens, Rocky Mountain jays, tanagers, bluebirds, water ouzels, blackbirds, meadowlarks, robins and others.



## Observance of Game Laws Is Essential

**T**HE only immediate relief that can be given wildfowl of North America is to limit the kill by restrictions on the hunting season. Such limitation is one of three methods outlined as available to insure the welfare of the migratory game birds of the country, by W. C. Henderson, associate chief of the Bureau of Biological Survey, U. S. Department of Agriculture, in a recent address at Boston, at the annual meeting of the Federation of the Bird Clubs of New England.

Other methods are being followed, such as establishing breeding refuges in the North, so as to increase the production of the various species, and providing resting and feeding sanctuaries along migration routes and in wintering grounds of the birds in the Southern states, for some measure of protection during the hunting season, said Mr. Henderson. These two methods, however, will require a period of several years, but at present protection can be afforded only by reducing the annual kill, he said. This, he developed, can be accomplished both through necessary amendments to the present regulations and by more adequately enforcing the existing laws.

"While the difficulties of enforcement have greatly increased in the last ten years," said Mr. Henderson, "there has not been a proportionate strengthening of the enforcement arm to keep pace with the increased cost of patrolling and investigational work of the Federal game protectors. In spite of an inadequate force of protectors, however, their work has brought about many noticeable benefits.

"Studies made by the Biological Survey in the last three years indicate that wildfowl have not been holding their own, and that additional measures for their protection must be adopted if their numbers are to be maintained. This decrease is due in large measure," he said, "to drainage of wildfowl concentration areas and limiting of the breeding grounds of birds by agricultural occupation, to the ease with which gunners can reach wildfowl centers over improved roads and by use of automobiles and motor boats, and to the increasing effectiveness of devices used in hunting.

"It is inevitable that agriculture and human occupation will more and more encroach on the wildfowl breeding areas. While we are awaiting the establishment of bird refuges, however, we can meet present emergencies by restrictions on hunting.

"The recent amendments to the regulations under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act affecting bag limits, which were made following recommendations of the Biological Survey, will lessen the kill on important winter concentration areas of the birds. During the coming hunting season the effect of the new amendments will be watched carefully by the Biological Survey. It is possible that additional restrictions may be found

necessary to safeguard the birds—contingent upon the failure of these new regulations to accomplish the desired result.

"Among other methods that have received the consideration of the Biologi-

### Libby Mayor Likes His Ling



**L**ONG BILL" Kienetz, mayor of the thriving city of Libby, is fond of the succulent Montana ling and is shown here with enough of the white-meated fish for breakfast. They abound in the Missouri and other streams. Old timers called these ling "Kootenai River Cod." Others sometimes call them something else.

cal Survey are: Shortening the open seasons, establishing rest days, making further restrictions in the use of devices now allowed in the taking of ducks and geese, and limiting the artificial methods of bringing birds within range of the shooting sands.

"If additional changes should be recommended, the country may be assured that it will be only after the most careful attention to all phases of the situation. In recommending the most recent changes the Biological Survey was governed by this policy, and while extremists on both sides of the question are in many respects inclined to criticize the action taken, it should be borne in mind that it has been necessary for the bureau to proceed conservatively—not so rapidly as some would urge and yet more drastically than many opponents of hunting restrictions desire.

"The decision of the bureau to recommend the changes recently approved was based on facts carefully gathered and developed. At this time there is no other organization in the country in possession of as much information relating to wildfowl conditions in North America as the Biological Survey. The opponents of the present regulations and others who are urging still more drastic restrictions can be in possession of only limited information by comparison. The Biological Survey, however, must be acquainted with all phases of the problem—phases that concern the food resources of wildfowl, their migratory habits, and their abundance, and other information that can be developed only from reports of agents of the bureau and other reliable observers widely distributed throughout North America.

"We need sound public sentiment in favor of the observance of the law, and willingness on the part of sportsmen and conservationists to adopt all the restrictions that are necessary to the preservation of the wildfowl," said Mr. Henderson.

### The Village Blacksmith

(Revised Version)

Under a spreading chestnut tree

A stubborn auto stands;

The smith an angry man is he

With trouble on his hands.

The carburetor seems to be

The cause of all his woe;

He tightens half a dozen bolts,

But still it doesn't go.

He sits beside the road to give

His brain a chance to cool,

And ponders on his training at

The correspondence school.

And then he starts his job once more

And just by chance 'tis seen

The cause of all his trouble is

He's out of gasoline.



# Wild Game Becoming a Farm Crop

**W**ILD game is one of the few farm crops for which the demand far exceeds the supply. It is one crop of which there is no possible over-production in sight, according to Aldo Leopold, director of the National Game Survey. This is true whether the selfish land owner wishes to raise it for his own enjoyment and use, or whether he wishes to market it by disposing of the shooting privilege to others.

"How does one produce a crop of game? Most people, when one speaks of raising game, immediately think of chicken-wire pens and artificial methods. Some kinds of game can be raised under a wire, but it is an expensive method, and not nearly so satisfactory as fixing up the land so that game will raise itself. It is literally true that if you provide the right kind of cover, feed, and protection, most game—especially quail, rabbits, and pheasants—will raise themselves, in numbers far beyond what the most persistent hunter has encountered in recent years.

"Take quail, for instance. I doubt if there are many farms that will average a quail per acre. Yet I have recently seen a farm that raised three per acre—or ten times the average crop—for six years running. How? Simply by leaving suitable brush cover, feeding in winter, and killing a dozen or so hunting cats each year. There was no cash cost except a little grain.

"Winter-feeding and keeping down natural enemies of game requires no explanation, but what about the brush cover? Is it really good farming to leave brush along fence rows, stream banks, and wood lots?

"I personally do not believe there is any wholesale yes or no answer. I am convinced that the wholesale condemnation of brush cover was premature. Every year of scientific investigation is showing up new reasons for believing that brush cover of the right kind, in the right place, may be a valuable farm asset. Some of these reasons pertain not only to the welfare of game crops, but to the welfare of regular farm crops.

"Take, for instance, the recent discovery that the pea aphid is seldom troublesome in the neighborhood of ungrazed wood lots with dense undergrowth. Why? Apparently because the natural enemies of the pea aphid—namely, the syrphid flies and lady beetles—find refuge only in such wood lots, and keep the nearby fields clear of aphids.

"The truth of the matter seems to be that brush cover affects nearby crops in many and complex ways, few of which are as yet fully understood. It may or may not be good farming to remove all the brush, but it is surely good game farming to leave some.

"Of course, there is brush and brush, even from the game standpoint. The really valuable kinds are those which

afford cover in winter and spring. Any farm has cover enough in summer. It seems clear that a couple of grapevine tangles, or a little group of pine or spruce saplings, occupying maybe a tenth of an acre, may do the game more good than many acres of ordinary brush too thick to hide the birds in winter. It is also true, especially as to quail, that an acre of brush strung out along stream banks, gullies, and cuts does the quail more good than the same kind and amount in a solid patch. This is because the quail has a very short cruising radius, and likes to have his sitting room and dining room close together, so to speak.

If you have the notion that evergreens are too slow-growing, try planting some under a locust thicket. You will be amazed at the rapid growth an evergreen will make under locust. This is because the locust belongs to the pea family, and puts nitrogen into the soil, just like alfalfa or clover does. Incidentally locust peas are fine quail and rabbit food in winter. Maybe you saw their tracks under the locust during last winter's deep snow. The quail know where their bread is buttered.

"Let us now consider pheasants. The thing the quail most often lacks in brush, but the thing the pheasant needs, is grassy or reedy swamps. The swamp is his refuge and his delight, especially in spring when the rest of the land is bare, and in fall when he makes his

getaway from hunters. A little pot-hole swamp surrounded by grain fields will often yield an amazing crop of pheasants, in fact its yield of pheasants and fur, undrained, may exceed in value its possible crops or pasture in the drained condition. Moreover, pheasants will travel much further than quail to take advantage of a swamp. A single swamp may keep the country for three miles around productive of pheasants, whereas a single thicket will spread its quail only half a mile.

"If your pheasant swamp has a spring in it, so much the better. A sportsman was feeding some pheasants in a springy swamp last winter. When a blizzard came, the whole flock took to the spring and stood in the running water right up to their leg feathers, and stayed till the blizzard was over. The pheasant knows where his foot-warmer is when it gets cold.

"The thought I am trying to express is that all the laws in the world will not save our game unless the farmer sees fit to leave his land in a habitable condition for game. Fixing the land to raise game is a matter of skill and experience. Well-farmed land, skillfully fixed up to raise game as a by-product, will yield a heavier crop of small game than the virgin forest ever yielded, because there is more feed. But well-farmed land cleared of all cover will sooner or later lose all of its game."

## Montana Fur Farm Is Beauty Spot



**H**ERE'S a beautiful setting, a remarkable photograph and a convincing demonstration to the man who knows not Montana, of what the fur farming business is becoming in the state. This spring-fed lake a short distance from Livingston is the home

of the Paradise Sables Fur Farm. The reflections in the placid lake cause the admirer to overlook the fur farm buildings at the right and the guard fence at the left. W. A. Dupuy is master of the farm.



## One Lone Heath Hen Still Survives

**D**R. ALFRED O. GROSS of Bowdoin College, who has been keeping tabs on the heath hen for the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Game, found March 28 to April 4 the single survivor still living. He reports as follows:

During 1928 the number of heath hen dwindled from three to one lone male bird. This bird was alive at the time of the annual census taken March 30 to April 3, 1929. Though suggestions have been made to the State Department of Conservation to collect and preserve this last bird for science, it has been allowed to live its normal life among the scrub oaks on the sandy plains of Martha's Vineyard Island. It was the common expectation at the time of the last census that this bird would step out of existence before another year had passed and with its going another race of birds would be added to that endless array of extinct forms. It is truly remarkable that this lone bird, subject to all the vicissitudes of the weather, to disease, and to natural enemies, has been able to live in solitude for such a long time.

The bird continued to visit the farm of James Green, West Tisbury, during the early spring of 1929, and was reported as late as May 11. After that date, as was the custom of the heath hen in the past, this individual disappeared among the dense scrub oaks to live in seclusion during the summer months. In October, after going through the ordeal of moulting, it again appeared at the Green farm to announce to the world that he was still alive. It was seen at irregular intervals during the winter and since the first warm days of March it has made daily visits to the traditional "booming" field, the old meadow along the state highway between Edgartown and West Tisbury, in a place less than a hundred yards from Mr. Green's house. Too much credit can not be given Mr. Green, who without remuneration has acted as custodian of this famous bird, the only representative of a dying race. Scarcely a day goes by but some bird lover, often from a distant part of the country, comes to this farm to pay respects to the lone survivor.

Through the continued cooperation of the Division of Fisheries and Game, a "blind" was placed on the field and the bird baited for nearly a month, thus making it possible to obtain field observations and photographic records of the heath hen during the period of the census.

During the spring of former years the heath hen appeared in the open fields in the early morning hours following dawn and again in the late afternoon preceding sunset, to go through their weird and extraordinary courtship performances. The lone bird has appeared regularly this year but the courtship performance has been omitted; in fact it has not been heard to utter a single note. It generally flew out of the scrub oaks and sailed gracefully to a point near the center of the meadow. After alighting it erected its head and carefully scrutinized its surroundings, seeming to make sure that all was safe before continuing to search for food. The bird presented a pathetic figure as it stood out there all alone without any companions save the crows that had come to share the food intended for the heath hen. Though it soon started feeding it was ever on the alert for possible danger. Its eyes were much keener than those of the human observers inside the blind. On several occasions the bird crouched in the grass, his colors blending so perfectly with the surroundings that he completely disappeared from view. A minute or two later a hawk would swoop over the field, explaining the reason of the heath hen's behavior. No doubt this alertness has been an important factor in its preservation. The feeding in the open was a businesslike performance and was never interrupted by the booming and cackling characteristic of the courtship performance, which in former years occupied the greater part of the time of the males during their visits to the open fields.

Not once did this male inflate his curious orange sacs and boom, for there was no female to admire him and no male to challenge him to such an

exertion. Its spirit must be broken, but nevertheless it seems to enjoy its life and its freedom. It is in excellent health, it is fat and plump and in perfect plumage. From a sentimental standpoint how much better it is to permit this last heath hen to live out its normal life in its natural environment than it would be to have it stuffed to collect dust on some museum shelf.

How long this bird will live no one can safely predict; its going is inevitable, but ornithologists, bird lovers and sportsmen the world over will have the satisfaction of knowing that all that could be done by the state, bird clubs and individuals has been done to save the species from extinction. The state department says that the bird will be allowed to live, and when death comes, whether it is due to old age, disease or to violence, we will at least know that the life of the last heath hen was not wilfully snuffed out by man.

### DON'T QUIT

When things go wrong as they sometimes do,  
When the road you're trudging seems all uphill,  
When the funds are low and the debts are high,  
And you want to smile but have to sigh,  
When care is pressing you down a bit,  
Rest if you must, but don't you quit.

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## Bre'r Rabbit Stompin' Hees Behime Foot at Careless Motorists

**B**RE'R RABBIT is indignant at the needless slaughter of his tribe by careless motorists, according to reports. A rabbit a mile is killed every year, a cursory survey of the United States shows. Each state has an average of forty to sixty thousand miles of public highways and roads, which brings Bunny's mortality rate of runover slaughter to millions.

Bre'r Rabbit and Carlos Avery, president of the American Game Protective Association, agree that many lives of the bunny tribe can be saved by careful driving.

"Don't run down game," Mr. Avery urges. "Swerve your car or otherwise avoid striking it whenever possible without endangering your own life. Bre'r Rabbit is blinded by headlights; watch out for him."



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### CHINKS ON TONGUE RIVER

**T**HE Chinese pheasant situation in southeastern Montana is attracting considerable attention, and it was with delight that members of sportsmen's organizations learned of the proposed liberation of the gaudy birds in that territory. The breaks of the Yellowstone and Tongue Rivers should provide good cover, says Deputy Chartrand of Miles City.

### STUART SHEPARD IS CALLED

**S**PORTSMEN of Montana were grieved to hear of the recent death of Stuart Shepard of Lewistown, for years one of the most prominent and active members of the Lewistown Rod and Gun Club.

### LARSON TO WASHINGTON

**L**EONARD LARSON, for many years an active worker in the Western Montana Fish and Game Association at Missoula, has moved to Washington. Mr. Larson was in charge of the membership drive for the association last spring.

### WHO PLANTS A TREE

Give fools their gold, and knaves their power;

Let fortune's bubbles rise and fall;  
Who sows a field, or trains a flower,  
Or plants a tree is more than all.

—John Greenleaf Whittier.

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## Plant Winter Feed Now For Birds and Prevent Starvation

**N**OW is the time to plant patches of winter feed for birds and prevent hundreds of thousands of the feathered friends from starving next winter, according to Carlos Avery, president of the American Game Protective Association.

"Sportsmen, nature lovers and farmers can perform an invaluable service for birds of all varieties, game, song and insectivorous, by planting little patches of winter feed for them now. It is better to plant a large number of small patches than a few large patches," Mr. Avery continued, "for the birds will flock to the large patches in great numbers. Naturally this concentration of birds will attract large numbers of predatory birds and animals, which will take proportionate toll.

"With the small patches there will be fewer birds in them and they will be less likely to be seen by the predators. No particular land is necessary. It is best to scatter seeds along the lips of creek banks, ditches and such drains that are not generally utilized for agriculture. A few patches of a hundred feet or so square planted near the edge of a wood or other natural cover will serve the birds well, particularly when the ground is covered with snow or sleet and ice crusts. Birds are more visible then, and the woods or thickets serve as a quick retreat when danger threatens in the open.

"Buckwheat, kaffir corn, oats, barley and such seeds should be planted, or if there is already such a stand on the land, a few patches of these should be allowed to stand instead of being cut, so that they will serve for both cover and food during the winter," Mr. Avery concluded.

## FOXES

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# Montana Sportsmen's Association

## FOR INCREASED FEE

**A**PPROVAL of the proposed increase to \$3 of the hunting and fishing license fee was announced at a meeting of the Valier Rod and Gun Club last month. The club also voted to join the Montana Sportsmen's Association. Sportsmen of the territory north of Great Falls realize well the immense value of the new spawning station at Lake Francis, and are resolved that the State Fish and Game Department shall not suffer through lack of funds. Senator Gilboe of Pondera county spoke highly of the work of the Department during the Valier meeting. Officers of the Valier club are, L. M. Johnson, president; H. E. Wilkinson, vice-president, and John Newell, secretary-treasurer. Officers of the Conrad Rod and Gun Club are, L. M. Mapes, president; Gene Erwin, vice-president, and Joe Ritchey, secretary-treasurer.

## ON HUNTLEY PROJECT

**O**RGANIZATION of the Project Rod and Gun Club, which will cover the territory embraced by the Huntley Irrigation Project, is well under way. Sportsmen of the area want to see better Chinese pheasant and Hungarian partridge shooting and some addition to the numbers and varieties of fish available. The towns embraced by the project include Worden, Ballantyne, Huntley and Pompeys Pillar. Sportsmen interested in the work of organization include J. E. Baltzell, Dr. R. W. Appleton, J. E. Patton, L. S. Hofreiter, C. A. Boshert, C. O. Stout and Walter Fenlon.

## WORK ON REARING PONDS

**W**ORK on the rearing ponds of the Butte Anglers' Club, located near Divide, is progressing rapidly, William Carpenter, president of the club, says. When completed it is claimed the ponds will be the largest of their kind in the world. A diagram of the ponds is used on the letterhead of the club.

## DUES ARE DUE

**P**AYMENT of dues in the Montana Sportsmen's Association for 1930 is in order at the present time. Most of the clubs of the state have completed their membership drives, and names of the members should be sent to the State Secretary at Missoula as soon as possible, with lists of the club officers and directors. This will enable headquarters to accomplish more efficient work in the territories covered by the clubs.

## SPORTSMANSHIP IN YOUTH

**T**HAT the younger generation in Forsyth is being brought up in the traditions of true sportsmanship is shown by the actions of Guy Haywood, Jr. Guy, who is 15 years old, last fall had the opportunity to sneak up on a flock of geese, and a chance to get three or four if he had taken a sit-

## DR. GARBERSON RE-ELECTED



J. H. Garberson

active leader in the Custer County Rod and Gun Club and an ardent conservationist fighting for the preservation of wild life. He is a member of the Andrus & Garberson clinic at Miles City. His enthusiasm for wild life of the state was exemplified recently, after the State Fish and Game Commission had expended some \$25,000 in creating the largest warm water pond cultural station in the world at Fort Keogh, when the artificial lake was christened "Lake Garberson."

ting shot. However, he scared them up and then fired, bringing down his goose. The young sportsman is spending his vacation fishing for pike and experimenting with ballistics. He is a son of Dr. G. T. Haywood, well known Forsyth sportsman.

## BIG FISH CAMPAIGN

**B**ILLINGS Rod and Gun Club is conducting another campaign for catching of the big fish. The chief rule in the contest is that to be eligible for a prize the taker of a big trout shall be a member of the club. Garfield Tonkin, president of the group, says that more interest than ever before is being shown by the anglers.

## BREAK TARGETS AT NIGHT

**I**NSTALLATION of flood lights at the trapshooting grounds of the Billings sportsmen is expected to lead to a great revival of the gentle art of hitting the bluebirds. The night shooting is more practicable than that of sunlight, members of the shotgun fraternity state.

## BIG TROUT IN GLACIER

**E**NORMOUS trout are the rule in Glacier Park lakes, as is shown by the catches made by sportsmen from Valier. George Ebner landed a mackinaw that weighed ten and one-half pounds at Lower Two Medicine Lake and Red Johnson took one that weighed 17 pounds. Lee Mapes of Con-

rad and John Newell caught twenty-one fish there that weighed from one to six pounds each.

## FAVOR HIGHER FEE

**T**HE biggest problem before sportsmen of Montana today is that of the proposed increased license fee. In order that the Commission may function in a manner equal to the demands made upon it, sportsmen of the state realize that more revenue should be coming in. During the last month the State Secretary visited many of the clubs of Montana and talked with many sportsmen outside of club meetings. He finds that the majority of these men are in favor of the license increase, especially when it is pointed out that pleas for additional game wardens can not be answered under the present budget. One of the farmer-sportsmen expressed the idea when he said: "We can't mine fish and game. It is a crop and should be treated as such, with enough put back in the streams and coverts to insure a crop for all time."

## ANNUAL FISH FRY

**P**LANS for the annual fish fry of the Granite County Anglers' Club of Philipsburg are proceeding apace. Last year the fry, held on Rock Creek west of the manganese town, attracted hundreds of sportsmen from all parts of Montana. It is the largest affair of its sort in the state, and many clubs are copying the Philipsburg men in staging similar parties. Edwin Irvine is secretary of the club.

## OBJECT TO CLOSING LAKE

**O**BJECTION to closing of Georgetown Lake except during the spawning season at the "largest trout spawning station in the world" was expressed at a meeting of the Anaconda Anglers' Club last month. The lake is the feeding place for a great share of the trout which produce the rainbow, native and grayling eggs that are hatched in the hatcheries of the State Fish and Game Department for liberation in the streams of Montana.

## CUSTER FAVORS INCREASE

**M**ILES CITY sportsmen went on record favoring an increase in the hunting and fishing license fee when the Custer Rod and Gun Club met last month. At the lively meeting many problems of interest to hunters of that community were discussed. It was stated that deer were on the increase in that territory, and that an open season on bucks might not be amiss. The matter of abolition of the Powder River Game Preserve was given considerable attention. Dr. F. L. Anderson was elected secretary-treasurer of the club, F. D. Sandvig, former secretary, having been transferred to Dillon by the Forest Service. Ralph Harris is president of the club.